

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 187

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3825

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ML, CH, PFOR

SUBJ: CALL BY CHINESE COMMUNIST AMBASSADOR MEN YUEH

1. AMBASSADOR OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MEN YUEH RETURNED COURTESY CALL ON ME THIS MORNING. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES AMBASSADOR MEN ASKED ME IF I COULD EXPLAIN THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION TO HIM. I COMMENTED THAT THE WORLDWIDE INFLATION INCLUDING THE PRICE OF OIL WAS AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE MALI. AMBASSADOR MEN SAID THAT THE PROBLEM AROSE IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE SAID THAT THE MIDDLE EASTERN QUESTION WOULD NEVER BE SOLVED UNTIL ALL OF THE OCCUPIED LANDS WERE GIVEN BACK AND THE PALESTINIANS GIVEN A STATE OF THEIR OWN. I SAID THAT, AS HE WELL KNEW, WE WERE ACTIVELY SEEKING AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION IN THE AREA. HE RESPONDED BY LAUNCHING INTO A BITTER ATTACK ON THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID THAT WHAT PREVENTED AN EQUITABLE SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS THE FACT THAT THERE WAS "ANOTHER POWER" TRYING TO GAIN ADVANTAGES FOR ITSELF IN THE AREA. DROPPING THE CIRCUMLOCUTION, HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS TRYING TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE IN THE ARAB WORLD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE UNITED STATES. CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE NEIGHBORS AND THE CHINESE KNOW THEM WELL. THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE TWO

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COUNTRIES AND THERE IS, OF COURSE, THE PROBLEM OF THE LONG

BORDER. THE CHINESE BELIEVE THAT THEY MUST PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THE EVENTUAL AGGRESSION THAT THEY ARE SURE WILL COME. THEY FELT HOWEVER THAT SOVIET MEANS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THEIR AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS. FOR THE TIME BEING, HOWEVER, THE SOVIET AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ARE AIMED AT EUROPE.

2. I SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD IS CONSTANTLY TO SEEK FOR A STABLE PEACE. IT WAS OUR VIEW THAT WEAKNESS INVITES AGGRESSION AND THAT WAS WHY WE FELT IT NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN OUR MILITARY STRENGTH. HE RESPONDED THAT STABILITY WAS TRANSITORY BUT THAT INSTABILITY WAS A REALITY. HE AGREED THAT THE HOPE OF THE WORLD WAS FOR PEACE BUT THAT REALITY DID NOT ALWAYS ACCORD WITH HOPES. IN HIS OPINION, THE SOVIET UNION TALKS ABOUT DETENTE BUT HAS BEEN AND STILL IS A COUNTRY WHICH SEEKS TO DOMINATE THE WORLD AND THEIR BASIC POLICY IN THIS REGARD HAD NOT CHANGED. I WAS TOTALLY NON-COMMITTAL SAYING SIMPLY THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL COUNTRIES TO WORK A STABLE AND EQUITABLE PEACE.

3. AMBASSADOR MEN SPEAKS NO FRENCH OR ENGLISH AND THE CONVERSATION WAS CONDUCTED THROUGH A VERY COMPETENT CHINESE INTERPRETER (FRENCH-CHINESE). MEN SAID SEVERAL TIMES HOW PLEASED HE WAS THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AND THAT HE WANTED TO CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS. I WAS A BIT STARTLED BY THE ZEAL OF HIS ATTACK ON THE SOVIET UNION SINCE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN STRICTLY CONFINED TO SALUTATIONS AT RECEPTIONS, EXCEPT FOR ONE CONVERSATION ON THE MERITS OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF CHINESE TEA. I GOT THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT HE WISHED TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH ME.

4. I WILL OF COURSE REPORT FULLY ON ANY FURTHER CONVERSATIONS I HAVE WITH HIM. TO WHAT EXTENT DOES DEPT WISH ME TO PURSUE DIALOGUE WITH CHINESE AMBASSADOR?
MCGUIRE

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